



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

14 December 2005

Week of 12 December 2005

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Construct Facilities to Provide Water for Irrigation, Municipal, Domestic, Military, and Other Uses From the Santa Margarita River, California, and for Other Purposes*** (H.R. 125). 

This bill authorizes, subject to appropriations, \$60 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to construct and maintain a water recharge and recovery system to make water available from the Santa Margarita River for domestic and military uses for 10 years after the date of enactment of this legislation. If funds were appropriated to implement this legislation, it would result in an increase of offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) to the Federal Government of about \$2 million a year, including interest, for 40 years starting around 2011. That change in direct spending is not credited to H.R. 125, however, because the receipts are contingent upon future appropriation action.

2) ***To Remove Certain Restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District's Ability to Use Certain Property Acquired by that District from the United States*** (H.R. 853). 

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to release the Federal Government's reversionary interest in 25 acres of land in California – conveyed to the Mammoth Community Water District in 1987– to allow the district to use the land for other public purposes. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that allowing the proposed change in land use would not affect the Federal budget.

3) ***Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the Improvement of Lands Act*** (H.R. 975). 

This bill standardizes penalty amounts, sentences, and other terms for certain misdemeanor violations established under regulation by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 975 would have no significant net impact on the Federal budget.

4) ***To Direct the Secretary of the Interior to Convey Certain Water Distribution Facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District*** (H.R. 3443). 

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. The bill also directs the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer funds from the reclamation fund, which will be raised from amounts collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of electricity from the Loveland Area Projects. Although an official estimate was not available, it was expected the final version of the bill would comply with the Congressional Budget Act.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

5) **To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Conduct a Study to Determine the Suitability and Feasibility of Designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum Located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a Unit of the National Park System** (H.R. 452). 

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis, MO, as a unit of the National Park System. The bill does not affect direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.

6) **To Designate a Forest Service Trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a National Recreation Trail in Honor of Jim Weaver, a Former Member of the House of Representatives** (H.R. 1090). 

This bill designates an existing trail in the Willamette National Forest in Oregon as the Jim Weaver Loop Trail. CBO estimates this legislation would not significantly affect the Federal budget.

7) **2005 District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act** (H.R. 3508). 

This bill amends Federal laws applicable to the District of Columbia [DC] authorizing the use of local funds for emergency spending; permanently authorizing the District's Chief Financial Officer; requiring fiscal impact statements for all legislation passed by the DC Council; and allowing the District to enter into compacts with other states regarding insurance regulations. The bill also authorizes lifting the cap on the pay-for-performance system for senior level employees of DC Courts and makes certain other administrative changes. CBO estimates that these provisions would not have a significant effect on direct spending or revenue.

8) **Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Korean American Day** (H.Res. 487). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

9) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 12760 South Park Avenue in Riverton, Utah, as the "Mont and Mark Stephensen Veterans Memorial Post Office Building"** (H.R. 4295). 

This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

10) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 1826 Pennsylvania Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Maryland State Delegate Lena K. Lee Post Office Building"** (H.R. 4107). 

This bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

11) **Recognizing the Centennial of Sustained Immigration From the Philippines to the United States and Acknowledging the Contributions of Our Filipino-American Community to Our Country Over the Last Century** (H.Con.Res. 218). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

12) **Congratulating the Los Angeles Galaxy on Their Victory in the 2005 Major League Soccer Championship** (H.Res. 574). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

13) **Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005** (S. 1047). 

This bill authorizes the U.S. Mint to create a new Presidential dollar coin, First Spouse gold coins, a 0.9999 fine (24K) gold bullion coin, and a redesigned 1-cent coin. CBO estimates that enacting this bill would reduce direct spending by \$25 million over the 2006-2015 period. This bill does not affect revenue.

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14) ***Small Public Housing Authority Act*** (H.R. 3422). 

This bill exempts small housing authorities that administer 250 or fewer units of assisted housing from the requirement to prepare an annual public housing agency plan. The threshold would include both public housing units and vouchers under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

15) ***Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act*** (H.R. 280). 

This bill authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] to provide grants to public entities for assistance in the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites and removes the requirement that brownfield redevelopment grants be used in conjunction with section 108 community development loan guarantees. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 280 would cost \$99 million over the next 5 years, subject to appropriations. The bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

16) ***Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005*** (H.R. 798). 

This bill authorizes \$5 million for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009, subject to appropriations, for the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] to support a new research program for the cleanup of closed laboratories that have been used to produce methamphetamine and authorizes a study by the National Academy of Sciences on the residual effects of methamphetamine. This bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

17) ***A Bill to Reauthorize the Congressional Award Act*** (S. 335). 

This bill reauthorizes the Congressional Award Act through fiscal year 2009. The Congressional Award Program recognizes excellence in public service and personal development among young people. The program is overseen by the Congressional Award Board, a nonprofit organization that receives no Federal funding. By requiring the U.S. Mint to design and strike medals at the request of the Congressional Award Board, the bill increases direct spending by less than \$500,000 annually. It does not affect revenue.

18) ***To Reauthorize and Amend the Commodity Exchange Act to Promote Legal Certainty, Enhance Competition, and Reduce Systemic Risk in Markets for Futures and Over-the-Counter Derivatives, and for Other Purposes*** (H.R. 4473). 

This bill extends the authority to appropriate funds for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission [CFTC] through 2010. The bill also amends and clarifies the CFTC's jurisdiction over certain futures transactions and financial products. Although a formal estimate was not available, the bill was not expected to increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

19) ***Condemning the Government of Zimbabwe's "Operation Murambatsvina" Under Which Homes, Businesses, Religious Structures, and Other Buildings and Facilities Were Demolished in an Effort Characterized by the Government of Zimbabwe as an Operation to "Restore Order" to the Country*** (H.Res. 409). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

20) ***Calling on the International Community to Condemn the Laogai, the System of Forced Labor Prison Camps in the People's Republic of China, as a Tool for Suppression Maintained by the Chinese Government*** (H.Con.Res. 294). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

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21) ***Honoring the Victims of the Cambodian Genocide that Took Place from April 1975 to January 1979*** (H.Con.Res. 238). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

22) ***Recommending the Integration of the Republic of Croatia Into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization*** (H.Res. 529). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

23) ***TANF Extension Act.*** 

Legislative language for

this bill was not available, but the measure is expected to extend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] and child care entitlements through 31 March 2006. A formal cost estimate was not available, but the Committee on the Budget expects the bill to increase direct spending by approximately \$100 million in 2006 primarily due to TANF supplemental grants. Enacting this bill would cause the Committee on Ways and Means to exceed its 302(a) allocation in the first year, fiscal year 2006, resulting in a violation of the Congressional Budget Act.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***USA Patriot and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Conference Report)*** (H.R. 3199). 

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This bill permanently authorizes certain provisions of the USA Patriot Act – formally titled the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 – and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Many of the provisions would otherwise expire on 31 December 2005. The bills also make changes regarding surveillance authority, including an order granting certain roving surveillance authority under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 [FISA]. In addition, the bill permits, under specified circumstances, wire or electronic communications service providers to disclose customer records to a government entity, and limits the authority to delay notice of the issuance of a search warrant. The bill also makes several changes to the laws relating to investigations of potential terrorist activity and establishes certain reporting requirements for the Attorney General and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Cost: A formal cost estimate was not available at the time of publication. Enacting this bill could lead to an increase in the collection of criminal and civil fines. Civil fines are recorded as revenue, and criminal fines, although also recorded as revenue, are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent without further appropriation (direct spending). Any additional revenue or direct spending would not be significant because of the relatively small number of cases affected.

Budget Act: Enacting this bill is not expected violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: *Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005* 
(H.R. 4437)

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This bill amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, and to enhance border security. The bill increases certain criminal penalties to aid in combating alien smuggling and illegal entry and presence and creates mandatory sentencing ranges for persons aiding or assisting certain reentering aliens. It directs the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense to develop a joint strategic plan to use the authorities provided to the Secretary of Defense to assist with the surveillance activities of the Department of Homeland Security conducted at or near the international land and maritime borders of the United States. The bill also creates mandatory detention for aliens apprehended at or between ports of entry, and provides for the removal of terrorist aliens and aliens inadmissible on criminal or security grounds. It also directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a toll-free employment verification system for responding to inquiries concerning an individual's identity and authority to be employed.

Cost: A formal cost estimate was not available. Enacting this bill is expected to lead to some increase in the collection of criminal fines. Due to the speculative nature of these fines, they are not taken into account for budget enforcement purposes.

Budget Act: Enacting this bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.